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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/717,086	11/19/2003	Charles Q. Zhan	120 06739US	7034
128	7590	06/26/2006	EXAMINER	
HONEYWELL INTERNATIONAL INC.			SUN, XIUQIN	
101 COLUMBIA ROAD			ART UNIT	
P O BOX 2245			PAPER NUMBER	
MORRISTOWN, NJ 07962-2245			2863	

DATE MAILED: 06/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/717,086

Applicant(s)

ZHAN ET AL.

Examiner

Xiuqin Sun

Art Unit

2863

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11/19/2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 04/21/06
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Please fill in the missing U.S. Patent application No. and filing date which are underlined in the "CROSS REFERENCE TO REGTED APPLICATION" section.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. Claims 1, 9, 15, 22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because they appear to be directed to an algorithm for determining an overall probability of a valve defect rather than a practical application of the algorithm in the real world. The claims do not produce any tangible results. The practical application of the claimed invention cannot be realized until the determined probability is conveyed to the user. For the result to be tangible it would need to output to a user or displayed to a user or stored for later use. Hence the claims are treated as non-statutory subject matter (See MPEP Sec. 2106). To view the new guidelines for 35 U.S.C. 101 please view the following OG notice: <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/com/sol/og/2005/week47/patgupa.htm>

Claims 2-8, 10-14, 16-21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 base on dependency.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-24 are allowed if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101 set forth in this Office action.

Reasons for Allowance

5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The primary reason for the allowance of claims 1-23 is the inclusion of the limitations of generating a plurality of indexes associated with the resolution levels, the indexes based on the one or more indicators and each identifying a likelihood of a valve defect; selecting one of the plurality of resolution levels using at least one of the indexes; and determining an overall probability of a valve defect using at least one of the indexes that is associated with the selected resolution level. It is these limitations found in each of the claims, as they are claimed in the combination that have not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which make these claims allowable over the prior art.

The primary reason for the allowance of claim 24 is the inclusion of the limitations of generating one or more indexes associated with one or more of the stiction patterns and each identifying a likelihood of a valve defect; and determining an overall probability

Art Unit: 2863

of a valve defect using at least one of the one or more indexes. It is these limitations found in the claim, as they are claimed in the combination that have not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which make this claim allowable over the prior art.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments received 04/21/2006 with respect to independent claims 1, 9, 15, 22 and 24 have been considered and they are persuasive. Allowable subject matters recited in these claims are identified.

Contact Information

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Xiuqin Sun whose telephone number is (571)272-2280. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30am-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Barlow can be reached on (571)272-2269. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Xiuqin Sun
Examiner
Art Unit 2863

XS
June 20, 2006

BRYAN BUI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

